

**AGENDA ITEM 6:      Executive Director report – July 16, 2015**

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Presented by: Erik Vink

Requested Action: **Receive report**

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**Executive Director Report**

July 16, 2015

**Program and Project Update**

**1. Delta Heritage Area Initiative (DelHAI):**

**DeltaForever:** In May, the Commission had a preview of the DeltaFOREVER art show, organized by landscape painter Gregory Kondos and his wife Moni Van Camp. The show was held in the old Courtland Bank over Memorial Day weekend and was an enormous success, grossing over \$12,000. It opened at Shimo's Art Center in Sacramento on June 12 and resulted in the largest attendance for a Second Saturday reception in Shimo's history. Moni Van Camp is still taking calls from interested artists and finding new gallery venues, including April 2016 at CSU Sacramento.

The funds raised by DeltaFOREVER will benefit the Delta Regional Foundation, a non-profit community benefit foundation created by Moni Van Camp to support Delta community projects, specifically the support and promotion of cultural and historical preservation, education and events; the support and promotion of tourism and recreation operations; and the support and promotion of agricultural projects and programs throughout the Delta. More fundraisers are in the planning stage.

**Delta Awareness Campaign:** Work is nearing completion on the Delta tourism website, intended to be accessed through the VisitCalifornia portal and showcasing the Delta as a unique tourism destination. Several great tourism promotion concepts were received from Delta residents, and the task force has referred the selected concept to the contracting agency for a full promotional plan and implementation in summer 2016.

**Placemaking in Legacy Communities:** The Placemaking in Legacy Communities project seeks to enhance quality of life and the local economy in Delta legacy communities through the creation of action plans focused on important community issues and priorities. The Commission has partnered with Sacramento and Yolo counties and the Sacramento State Center for Collaborative Policy (CCP) in this effort. Commission and CCP staff are currently interviewing stakeholders in preparation for a first round of community workshops in Courtland and Walnut Grove in fall 2015.

2. **Delta Recreation Research:** In a new partnership with California State University at Sacramento (CSUS), an assessment of Delta boating needs will be conducted. The study will identify infrastructure needs and improvements, as well as patrol/safety requirements and improvements. Results are expected in late 2016. CSUS will also develop a strategy for future needed recreational research, based on recommendations from the Economic Sustainability Plan (ESP). This research responds to recommendations in the ESP, and will support further development of the Delta's recreational economy.
3. **Delta Emergency Drought Barrier:** The Department of Water Resources completed installation of an emergency drought barrier at West False River in early June. Since that time, there have been problems related to the increased water velocities in Fisherman's Cut, including with the operation of the Bradford Island ferry. DWR has released the bid documents for the removal of the drought barrier, to be conducted by no later than November 15, 2015.
4. **Proposition 1 and Delta Conservancy Consultation:** Proposition 1 requires the Delta Conservancy to consult with the Commission on its grantmaking activities. Following discussions with the Conservancy, it was agreed that the Commission will be involved in the following ways:
  - Commission staff will receive copies of pre-proposals submitted to the Conservancy so the Commission staff may vet any potential local agency/landowner concern
  - Commission staff will be invited to participate in the evaluation of full proposals the Conservancy will evaluate for funding
  - The final list of recommended grants will be presented at a Commission meeting prior to consideration by the Conservancy at its board meeting

The Conservancy expects to solicit pre-proposals beginning in August and to consider grant awards at its March 23, 2016 meeting. In addition, Commission staff will be working to ensure that the funding designated for Delta restoration projects by CA Department of Fish and Wildlife and DWR/Central Valley Flood Protection Board Delta levees funding provides maximum benefit to the Delta and advances both the Land Use and Resource Management Plan and the Economic Sustainability Plan.

5. **Vision 2030 Implementation Plan:** With the adoption of the Vision 2030 Strategic Plan at the Commission's May 21 meeting, Commission staff has focused on drafting an Implementation Plan to guide staff efforts in the first several years of the Strategic Plan. A draft version of the Implementation Plan will be provided to Commissioners at the meeting; we intend to seek input from the Delta Protection Advisory Committee at a July 28 meeting and to discuss the plan with Commissioners at the September 17 meeting.

6. **DPC Land Use Comments:** As part of the Commission’s responsibility to ensure that local land use decisions in the Delta are consistent with the Land Use and Resource Management Plan (LURMP), staff prepare comment letters to advise local agencies on their projects’ consistency with the LURMP. The chart below lists the comment letters prepared by Commission staff from May 9, 2015 through July 8, 2015.

**Land Use Projects – Comment Letters  
May 9, 2015 through July 8, 2015**

County	Project	Substantial	Primary Zone	Secondary Zone	In Both Zones
Contra Costa	None				
Sacramento	None				
San Joaquin	City of Lathrop General Plan Amendment, SB 5 200-Year Flood Protection (Citywide)	X		X	
	City of Stockton General Plan Amendment, 200-Year Flood Risk and Protection (Citywide)	X		X	
	Fourteenmile Slough Levee Improvement Project Mitigated Negative Declaration (1.4 acres)			X	
Solano	None				
Yolo	Request to Remove Residential “No-Build” Restriction (near Clarksburg)		X		
Multi-County	Notice of Preparation for Environmental Permitting for DWR Operations and Maintenance on Sacramento River Flood Control Project (levees, channels, etc.)	X			X
	Delta Flood Management Investment Strategy Principles (DSC)	X			X
	Notice of Preparation for the Environmental Impact Report for the Update to the Delta Levee Investment Strategy Policy (DSC)	X			X

Administrative Update

1. **Commission Staffing:** With the recent addition of Adele Lagomarsino joining our staff as a Senior Environmental Planner and Sheri Keven as the Commission Clerk, the

Commission is once again fully staffed. Enormous credit goes to Assistant Executive Director Catherine Caldwell for her careful recruiting efforts. I'm pleased to introduce the Delta Protection Commission staff:

- **Erik Vink** (Executive Director) implements Commission vision by leading staff, administration, and policy development, with emphasis on and expertise in agricultural and water issues.
  - **Catherine Caldwell** (Assistant Executive Director) provides administration, program development and coordination, personnel management, budget and contracts oversight, and is the Commission's legislative and policy advisor.
  - **Sheri Keven** (Clerk to the Commission) provides administrative and clerical support and office management.
  - **Jennifer Ruffolo** (Project Manager) leads levee and emergency response efforts, economic sustainability efforts, and is both our lead for land use planning and covers land use projects in Contra Costa, Solano, and Multi-County areas.
  - **Adele Lagomarsino** (Senior Environmental Planner) leads recreation development, Great California Delta Trail implementation, abandoned vessel abatement efforts, aquatic invasive weed management, and covers land use projects in San Joaquin County.
  - **Blake Roberts** (Associate Environmental Planner) leads cultural heritage preservation and enhancement efforts, Delta Heritage Area Initiative (DelHAI), habitat restoration liaison, and covers land use projects in Sacramento and Yolo Counties.
  - **Nicole Bert** (Communications Specialist) leads outreach and education efforts, Delta awareness/tourism development, partnership development, and provides administrative coordination.
2. **Commission Budget:** The Commission's FY 15-16 budget was approved with enactment of the Budget Act, and provides relatively stable funding for fiscal year that began July 1. It provides approximately \$1.2 million in total funding from both the Environmental License Plate Fund and the Harbors and Watercraft Fund.
3. **August 20 Commission meeting?:** If necessary to consider a comment letter on CA WaterFix, the next scheduled alternate meeting date for the Delta Protection Commission is Thursday, August 20 (location to be determined). If the Commission does not need to meet on that date to consider a CA WaterFix comment letter, the next Commission meeting will be on September 17 in Walnut Grove.

***Upcoming Events:***

July 26: Courtland Pear Fair, Courtland. [www.pearfair.com](http://www.pearfair.com)

August 8: Taste of the Delta, Tower Park Marina. [www.californiadelta.org](http://www.californiadelta.org)

August 8-9: 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Sacramento River Delta Grown Wine & Produce Passport Weekend.  
[www.SacRiverDeltaGrown.org](http://www.SacRiverDeltaGrown.org) (DPC is a sponsor)

September 17: Delta Protection Commission meeting, Jean Harvie Center, Walnut Grove.

September 17-18: State of the San Francisco Estuary Conference, Oakland.

[www.sfestuary.org/soe](http://www.sfestuary.org/soe)

September 19: Delta Waterways/Coastal Cleanup day, various Delta locations.

[www.delta.ca.gov/cleanup.htm](http://www.delta.ca.gov/cleanup.htm)

October 24: Flood Preparedness Fair, sponsored by the Commission and hosted at the Delta Farmers Market. [www.delta.ca.gov/BePrepared.htm](http://www.delta.ca.gov/BePrepared.htm)